

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Action mailed December 13, 2005. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Claims 1-6 and 12-14 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this Application.

Claims 1-7 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cisneros in view of Iyer, et al. Independent Claims 1-6 and 12-14 have been amended to recite in general an ability for the demultiplexer to direct each data packet of an input stream to a particular input queue having a smallest amount of queued data packets. This limitation is in line with the particular limitation identified by the Examiner in allowed Claim 8 as not being disclosed by the prior art. Support for the above recitation can be found at page 10, paragraph 0033. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-7 and 12-14 are patentably distinct from the proposed Cisneros - Iyer, et al. combination. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-7 and 12-14 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 8-11.

This Response to Examiner's Final Action is necessary to address the new grounds of rejection and newly cited prior art raised by the Examiner. This Response to Examiner's Final Action could not have been presented earlier as the Examiner has only now raised the new grounds of rejection and newly cited prior art in support thereof.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicants

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Charles S. Fish', is written over the printed name.

Charles S. Fish

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